

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05892 250740Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09

OES-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /067 W

-----046997 251227Z /50

R 250435Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9416

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 5892

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, ELAB, SA

SUBJ: PORT AUTHORITY TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR STEVEDORING

1. SAUDI PRESS REPORTED AUGUST 21 THAT PORT AUTHORITY WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR OFF-LOADING OPERATIONS AT THE KINGDOM'S PORTS.

2. ITEM BEGIN QUOTE:

SHIPPING AGENTS' WORK WILL BE CANCELLED AS THE PORT AUTHORITY TAKES OVER. DR.FAYEZ BADR, PRESIDENT OF THE PORT AUTHORITY, SAID YESTERDAY (AUGUST 20) THAT THE AUTHORITY WOULD CANCEL WITHIN TWO MONTHS THE WORK OF SHIPPING AGENTS AND WOULD HANDLE OFF-LOADING OPERATIONS BY ITSELF.

DR. BADR POINTED OUT THAT THIS IMPORTANT DECISION WAS TAKEN AFTER COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES OF THE OFF-LOADING CONDITIONS AT THE SEAPORTS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING OFF-LOADING CAPACITY AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN TO IMPROVE PORT FACILITIES.

THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT THE AIM BEHIND THE CANCELLATION OF THE SHIPPING AGENTS' WORK, AS WELL AS ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OFF-LOADING OPERATIONS, WAS TO SAVE A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT AND REDUCE THE LONG PROCEDURES COVERING SUCH OPERATIONS.

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BADR SAID THAT ON TAKING OVER THE OFF-LOADING OPERATIONS, THE PORT AUTHORITY COULD DOUBLE THE VOLUME OF OFF-LOADING, SPEED UP PROCEDURES, AND SAVE THE 20 RIYALS PAID TO THE SHIPPING AGENTS PER TON OF CARGO OFF-LOADED AT THE SEAPORTS. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: CENTRALIZING AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

FOR STEVEDORING COULD BE THE BEST STEP EVER IN CLEANING
UP PORT OPERATIONS. PRACTICE UP TO NOW HAS INVOLVED THE
HIRING OF STEVEDORE GANGS BY SHIPPING AGENTS. THE GANGS
LEFT THE PORT AFTER COMPLETING OFF-LOADING OF A PARTICULAR
AGENTS SHIP WITHOUT REGARD TO TIME OF DAY. A VESSEL
ALONGSIDE REPRESENTED BY ANOTHER AGENT MIGHT WAIT FOR
HOURS OR DAYS UNTIL ITS SHIPPING AGENT RECRUITED A
STEVEDORES. MAINTENANCE OF CONTINUITY IN STEVEDORING
OPERATIONS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MAJOR PROBLEM IN THE
KINGDOM'S PORTS.
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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